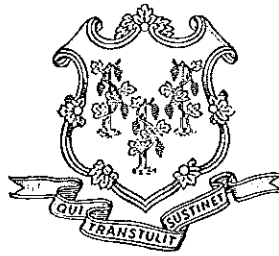


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State of Connecticut

SENATE

Fourteenth District

Chair
Human Services

Vice Chair
Public Health
Veterans' Affairs

Testimony to the Transportation Committee

**Senate Bill 337 AN ACT REQUIRING A DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANT TO
SELECT OR DECLINE TO MAKE AN ANATOMICAL GIFT**

March 5, 2013

Dear, Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. I write in support of Senate Bill 337 An Act Requiring A Driver's License Applicant To Select Or Decline To Make An Anatomical Gift.

This legislation seeks to increase organ donor rates by requiring applicants to clearly declare their intent regarding organ donation through their driver's license application. The language will not force applicants to register; it will clearly identify those who wish to become organ donors to improve donor turnout for the registry.

The importance of such a bill was brought to my attention by one of our Connecticut residents, David Smith. Mr. Smith's daughter, Alexis, was a healthy and active person who had the opportunity to study abroad in Australia. She showed no signs of health abnormalities or problems. The call Mr. Smith received one night was unexpected and shocking, Alexis had fallen ill and was diagnosed with Wilson's disease. Rushing half way around the world to his terminally ill daughter, Mr. Smith received a breath-taking telegram during his flight; a liver transplant saved his daughter's life.

Although not the worst, with forty-one percent of adults enrolled as organ donors, Connecticut stands below the national average of forty-five percent. Approximately 1,427 Connecticut residents are on the national recipient list waiting to be saved. Similar legislation, such as New York's "Lauren's Law," have been enacted to increase participation in their registry.

I ask that the Transportation Committee consider this legislation to require driver's license applicants to select or decline participation with the organ donor registry. This small change will increase organ donor participation and save many lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Gayle Slossberg